Improvement in the plight of petrol dealers

672. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to improve the plight of the petrol dealers; and

(b) whether the dealers' commission on petrol, diesel and oil is being increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) The present scheme for fixing dealers' commission on petrol and diesel provides for automatic revision in the rates of dealers' commission to take care of revisions in prices of MS/HSD. This would cover increased cost because of higher working capital and product losses. The current rates of dealers' commission on petrol and diesel which were revised on 17-3-85 are as follows:

Slab	Commission (Rs. per Kl.)	
	MS	HSD
Sales volume Kl. per annum		
0 360	[illegible]	[illegible]
361—600	108	62
601—1080	95	44
above 1080	76	38

Presently there is no proposal under consideration to increase these rates.

Survey regarding demand for crude oil

673. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REEDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of crude is likely to go up to 100 million tonnes against the projected indigenous production of 50 million tonnes by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, whether any survey in this regard has been conducted;

(c) if so, what will be the demand as against the production;

(d) what steps Government are taking to meet the demand; and

(e) what is the percentage of self-sufficiency achieved in crude at present and to what extent, the percentage is likely to be reduced by the end of the century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) The projection for the demand of crude against indigenous production by the turn of the century is yet to be finalised.

(c) The estimated refinery throughout in 1989-90 is expected to be 44.97 million tonnes of crude against a production of about 35 million tonnes from known oil fields.

(d) To meet the demand efforts would be made to maximise production from known fields by using enhanced oil recovery techniques, and by putting new discoveries on production early.

(e) Efforts are being directed to attain self-sufficiency in oil keeping in vew the various restraints of oil exploration. It is not possible to indicate with any certainty the percentage of self-sufficiency likely to to be attained by the end of the century.

Delay in drilling by ONGC in Bihar region

674. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item

which appeared in the "Searchlight" Patna, dated the 10th July, 1985 captioned "Anti-Bihar bias alleged" giving details of reported delays by the Calcutta office of ONGC in conducting drilling operations in Bihar region;

(b) whether it is also a fact that when the Bihar operations were under Head Office the drilling was going on smoothly and huge quantity of oil was reported in Champaran district;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all these operations have come to a halt from the day these operations came under the Calcutta office; and

(d) if the answers to part (b) and part (c) be in affirmative, what step Government propose to take to explore oil in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Gandhak Project in Bihar has been placed under Central Region of ONGC at Calcutta for administrative and operational convenience. Exploratory work in Bihar is going as per plan.

The Gandhak-I well is under testing. So far, no commercial discovery of hydrocarbons has been made in Bihar.

Waiting list for new telephone connections

675. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on waiting list for new telephone connections in major cities having population of 5 lakhs and more;

(b) the maximum waiting period in each case;

(c) whether Government are taking any action to reduce the waiting period to at least below two years; and

(d) what are the major hurdles in expanding the telephone facilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) This information is given in the Statement (*See below*)

(c) Every effort is being made to reduce the waiting period as minimum as possible. In the 7th Plan period it is proposed to provide telephone connections practically on demand, if sufficient resources are made available to the Department.

(d) The major hurdles in expanding telephone facilities in the country are as follows:—

(i) Paucity of funds-always a major huddle. Even for the year 1985-86 allocation has been slashed down drastically.

(ii) Inadequate production capacity of switching equipment and cables in the past.